

BURUNDI

BURUNDI BACKS EAC INTEGRATION



2019-2020 BUDGET
US\$850,000



SUPPORTED PROJECTS
5



DONORS

•BELGIUM •NETHERLANDS •UKaid



MISSION

GROWING PROSPERITY THROUGH TRADE



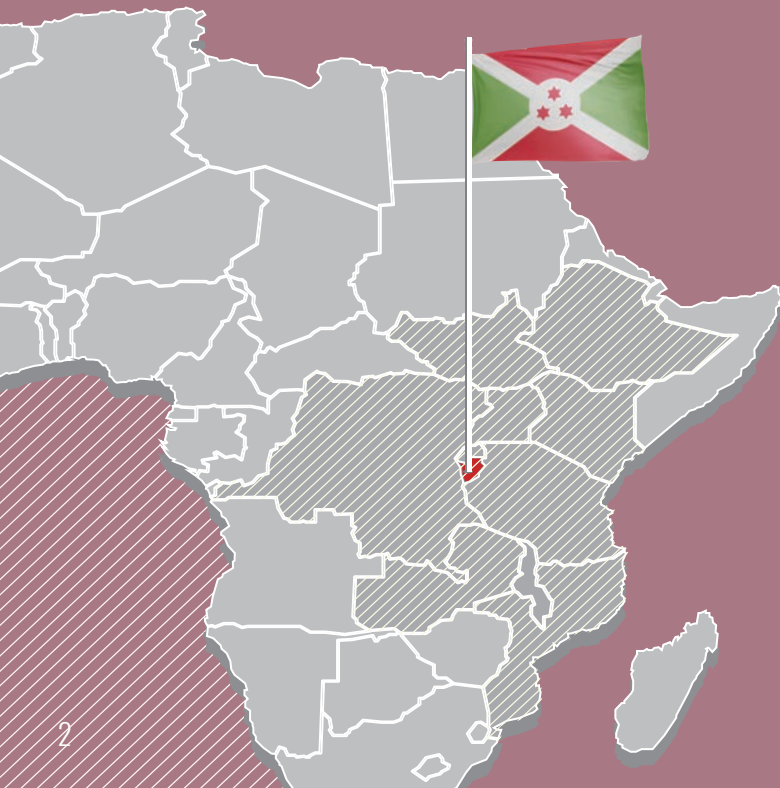
FEATURED PROJECTS



OBR SPEARHEADS CUSTOMS MODERNISATION



WOMEN IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE



BURUNDI BACKS EAC REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Burundi typifies TradeMark East Africa's adaptive programming approach, as it continues delivering results in a dynamic environment.

TMEA has been supporting Burundi to accelerate adoption of regional frameworks on trade regulations and private sector development. This is in tandem with the country's need to remain active in the East Africa Community integration agenda and its private sector need to continue accessing benefits accruing from the Northern and the Central Corridors of which Burundi is a member.

Our support will enable Burundi leverage on regional value chains and strengthen linkages to international supply chains. Opportunities abound. For instance,

Bujumbura's positioning as the only major city along Lake Tanganyika can act as a central point for supplies and logistics for the lake's neighbouring states, thus spurring trade, economic development and job creation.

In the year ended June 2020, TMEA-Burundi, bolstered by strategic partnerships with the private and public sectors, supported interventions that strengthen the private sector. Our partners in the public sector such as Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR), the National Committee on Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers, and Burundi Standards Bureau (BBN) own mandates that are deemed key for private sector development. Our focus remained on reducing barriers that inhibit smooth export and import trade. For example we started enhancing the Electronic Single Window System implemented by OBR which will link key trade agencies and create a one-stop shop for processing export and import requirements. The system will enable traders operating in Burundi enjoy speedier and more transparent document-processing services, quicker access to information, and customs efficiency.

Christian Nibasumba,
Country Representative



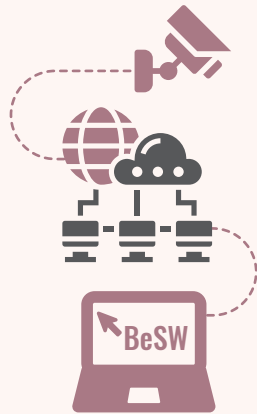
Photo, courtesy of East African Community Secretariat

IMMEDIATE FUTURE

1. Support OBR to link the Single Window to 3 other trade agencies
2. Women and Trade: Campaign on Simplified Trade Regime, training on positive masculinity, training women traders on business
3. Build capacity of 60 manufacturers
4. Train 300 freight forwarders to attain the East Africa Customs Freight Forwarding Practicing Certificate (EACFFPC)



NEW PARTNERSHIPS SIGNED IN THE YEAR



ICT infrastructure, including network servers and security equipment for the Electronic Single Window was delivered to Bujumbura, and software vendor, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was contracted. The project will help reduce shipment time and costs, thus lowering consumer prices and ultimately building a conducive business environment.

The Burundi Bureau of Standards received regional technical assistance to enhance its capacity in enabling Burundi businesses to comply with international trade standards and certifications that boost export and increase income for Burundi traders. The support will automate key services hence reducing time and costs of certifications for traders.



Through a US\$1.3 million funding from the Kingdom of Belgium, small-scale women traders in the provinces of Bujumbura, Makamba, Rugombo and Rumonge were trained on trading rights, and supported to form associations to enhance their abilities to access markets and collectively oppose dishonesty and harassment at border posts. As a result, the women traders have reported formalising their businesses, paying taxes and improving their household budgets.

A follow-up of four of the newly formed associations revealed that women constitute 60% of small-scale cross-border traders in Burundi, and such projects enhance their contribution in the informal economy, in addition to their household budgets.

We signed a US\$250,000 Partner Support Agreement with the Burundi Private Sector Federation to enhance the capacity of the federal chamber and its members to participate in policy making, accelerate dispute resolution along corridors, sustain political buy-in, and reduce/eliminate recurrent non-tariff barriers at key border posts.



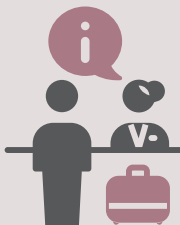


PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

1. Completed the purchase of hardware, and installation of the required ICT hosting and networking infrastructure to support the Electronic Single Window.

2.  385 women traders (against a target of 100) in the provinces of Mugina, Rumonge, Ruhwa, Gatumba trained on association management. Four new associations of 25 members were created and committees elected.

3. Completed a needs assessment to inform creation of a digital tool for operationalisation of an SMS platform for Burundi women in cross border trade.

4.  Officers were recruited to work at the Mugina, Ruhwa, Rumonge and Gatumba Trade Information Desk Offices.



5. A total 30 artisans (small traders) participated in the Jamafest Trade Fair and made sales of US\$20,000 in addition to orders received after the fair.

6. We collected data in Gatumba from women involved in cross-border trade with DRC. The women highlighted un-harmonised official border documents, and inhuman treatment by the police and border officials, as the main challenges they face in their business. The Burundi private-public dialogue framework advocacy agenda will highlight the challenges in efforts to eliminate NTBs.



FEATURED PROJECT BURUNDI ELECTRONIC SINGLE WINDOW

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION
SEPTEMBER 2019 - DECEMBER 2020

BUDGET
US\$1,150,000

PURPOSE
REDUCE BARRIERS TO TRADE

DONORS
• NETHERLANDS



OBR SPEARHEADS CUSTOMS MODERNISATION

Re-launching the customs modernisation project that had been suspended in 2015, TMEA supported the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR) to integrate ASCYUDA World Programme with systems belonging to government agencies and private sector members involved in cross-border trade, for efficient customs management.

The support included establishing Burundi Electronic Single Window (BeSW), to meet the demands of regional integration, and best international trade practices. It also included upgrading the data centre and network infrastructure, as well as sensitisation, training and support during implementation and rollout lifecycle, to ensure full uptake and utilisation of the systems. The project improves OBR's ability to deliver its mandate related to international trade transactions that involve interactions between customs, ports of entry operations, government agencies, and private sector economic operators.



PROGRESS

1.



Hardware for the required ICT hosting and networking infrastructure to support the BeSW, cargo tracking, and other customs management systems was purchased and delivered at OBR. The development of the BeSW is advanced, with two of the three project modules ready for deployment.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

The key challenge was lengthy processes with parties involved in the project, which calls for incorporating estimated delays in the project's future forecast. In addition, there's need to explore collaboration with other government agencies involved in trade facilitation for the benefit of the system being deployed and its future trainings.



BENEFICIARY QUOTE

"This financial support comes at a time when the OBR is fast tracking the implementation of trade facilitation programmes that have been ratified and approved by the Burundi Government, to strengthen the security of business while promoting quick and easy procedures for the benefit of economic operators."

Hon. Audace Niyonzima OBR,
Commissioner General



FEATURED PROJECT WOMEN IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION
OCTOBER 2019 - OCTOBER 2021

BUDGET
US\$665,668

PURPOSE
IMPROVING BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

DONORS
• BELGIUM



“INFORM ME AND HELP ME GROW”

Menyesha Nterimbere (inform me and help me grow) project aims to improve sharing of trade information with Burundi women in trade.

The four provinces of Bujumbura, Makamba, Rugombo and Rumonge are each to identify 100 women to be trained and certified as trainers, after which each trainer is to train five women in their localities, bringing the total to 2,000 women trained.

The project also targets reaching 4,000 women traders with trade information through an established digital platform, trade information desks and market intelligence tools. With the interventions, the project expects an increase in the cross-border traders' incomes with a higher contribution to Burundi's trade revenue.

Compared to men, women cross-border traders face more obstacles in accessing regulatory, trade and market information.

They are often unaware of their rights and obligations, including benefits of preferential tariff rates, and compliance to complex border procedures. Additionally, women traders' weaker bargaining power makes them vulnerable to harassment, impounding of goods, and corruption when crossing borders.

Similarly, existence of different currencies with fluctuating exchange rates across border points, and numerous often not understood taxes such as value added tax (VAT), excise duty, withholding tax, import and export duty, etc., limit business profitability for small and medium scale women traders. The project will empower the targeted women navigate some of these challenges.





EMERGING RESULTS

1.

US\$2,000
LOAN AMOUNT
WOMEN GAVE TO
MEMBERS TO BOOST
THEIR LIVELIHOODS



385 women traders (above targeted 100 trainers) trained on Association Management, to widen their horizons and encourage them to jointly raise their financial savings and formalise their trade. Each trainer is expected to train five other women, of whom 753 are already trained. By working jointly, the women saved US\$2,500 and gave loans amounting to US\$2,000 to members. The savings boosted the women's livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic that led to border closures.

BENEFICIARY QUOTE

"The training has opened my eyes on time management and planning my activities. We thank AFRABU and Partner Africa for organising these sessions,"

Nitereka Godelieve.

26-year-old woman from Commune Mabanda, Makamba Province. She sells tomatoes, eggplant and amaranth, making an average income of US\$50 per month.

"Before the project, I was working solo, with no one to advise me. Now that I have joined the association, I have high hopes that in just two years my business will have grown and I will be more developed,"

Nahinkuye Yungirine.

53-year-old woman from Commune Rumonge, Rumonge Province. She sells beans and salt, making an average monthly income of US\$155.

"I'm committed to supporting women traders to create and register new associations. We will ensure efficient management of the associations in adherence to the national laws regulating associations established for profit,"

Hakizimana Erasme.

Social Affairs Advisor of Commune Rugombo, Cibitoke Province



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